

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a first communications environment for which first communications resources are provided for communications according to a first communications standard type, comprising:
 - using the first communication resources for communications according to the first communications standard type,
 - using the first communications resources for communications according to a second communications standard type, and
 - controlling the use of the first communications resources as being used for communications according to the first communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the second communications standard type,
 - communicating according to the first communications standard type by using a first frame structure including at least one transmission gap,
 - controlling the use of the first communication resources by controlling at least one of a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap, and
 - using the at least one transmission gap for communications according to the second communications standard type for transmitting data of the second communications in the at least one transmission gap; and
 - wherein a number of slots or frames of a second frame structure of the second communications standard type is dependent upon the number and the duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising:

- controlling the use of the first communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the first communications standard type.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising:

- using second communications resources provided for communications according to the second communications standard type for communications according to the first communications standard type and
- controlling the use of the second communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the first communications standard type.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, comprising:

- communicating according to the second communications standard type by using a second frame structure, and
- controlling the use of the second communications resource by controlling at least one of a number and a duration of at least a part of the second frame structure being used for communications according to the second communications standard type.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- controlling the use of the second communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the second communications standard type.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first communications resources include a first frequency range.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein the first frequency range and the second frequency range overlap at least partially.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising controlling the use of the first communications resources for a geographical area for which both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type are provided.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising controlling the use of the first communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the second communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising controlling the use of the second communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the first communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising providing the first communications resources as resources comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for communications according to the first communications standard type.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- providing the first communications resources as resources comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for communications according to the first communications standard type, and
- providing the second communications resources as resources comprised by a second communications environment, which provides for communications according to the second communications standard type.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- communicating information indicating at least one of a current communications traffic according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the second communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type to the first communications resources so as to control the use of the first communications resources.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- communicating information indicating at least one of a current communications traffic according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the first communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type to the second communications resources so as to control the use of the second communications resources.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- using the first communications resources for
 - only communications according to the first communications standard type, or
 - only communications according to the second communications standard type, or

-- communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- using the second communications resources for
 - only communications according to the first communications standard type, or
 - only communications according to the second communications standard type, or
 - communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising:

- controlling the use of the first communications resources such that communications according to the first communications standard type are prioritized in relation to communications according to the second communications standard type.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising:

- controlling the use of the second communications resources such that communications according to the second communications standard type are prioritized in relation to communications according to the first communications standard type.

19. (Currently Amended) A communications environment adapted

- to utilize first communications resources for communications according to a first communications standard type for communications according to a second communications standard type, and
- to control the use of the first communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the second communications standard type,

- wherein the first communications resources comprise a first frame structure including at least one transmission gap and wherein the second communications resources comprise a second frame structure,
- wherein the communications environment is adapted to control the use of the first communications resources by controlling at least one of a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap, and
- wherein the communications environment is adapted to control the use of the at least one transmission gap for communications according to the second communications standard type for transmitting data of the second communications in the at least one transmission gap, and
- wherein a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon the number and the duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

20. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, being adapted

- to control the use of the first communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the first communications standard type.

21. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, being adapted

- to utilize second communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type for communications according to the first communications standard type, and
- to control the use of the second communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the first communications standard type.

22. (Original) The communications environment according to claim 21, wherein

- the second communications resources comprise a second frame structure for communication according to the second communications standard type, and
- the communications environment is adapted to control the use of the second communications resources by controlling at least one of a number and a duration of at least a part of the second frame structure being used for communications according to the second communications standard type.

23. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, being adapted

- to control the use of the second communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type in dependence of communications to be performed according to the second communications standard type.

24. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, wherein the first communications resources include a first frequency range.

25. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 24, wherein the second communications resources include a second frequency range, and wherein the first frequency range and the second frequency range overlap at least partially.

26. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, being adapted to control the use of the first communications resources for a geographical area for which both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type are provided.

27. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, being adapted to control the use of the first communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the second communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type.

28. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, being adapted to control the use of the second communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the first communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type.

29. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, wherein the first communications resources are comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for communications according to the first communications standard type.

30. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, wherein

- the first communications resources are comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for communications according to the first communications standard type, and
- the second communications resources are comprised by a second communications environment, which provides for communications according to the second communications standard type.

31. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19,
being adapted

- to communicate information indicating at least one of a current communications traffic
according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic
according to the second communications standard type and available communications
resources for communications according to the second communications standard type to
the first communications resources so as to control the use of the first communications
resources.

32. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21,
being adapted

- to communicate information indicating at least one of a current communications traffic
according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic
according to the first communications standard type and available communications
resources for communications according to the first communications standard type to the
second communications resources so as to control the use of the second communications
resources.

33. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19,
wherein the first communications resources are used for

- only communications according to the first communications standard type, or
- only communications according to the second communications standard type, or
- communications according to the first communications standard type and
communications according to the second communications standard type.

34. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21,
wherein the second communications resources are used for

- only communications according to the first communications standard type, or

- only communications according to the second communications standard type, or
- communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type.

35. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 19, wherein

- the use of the first communications resources are controlled such that communications according to the first communications standard type are prioritized in relation to communications according to the second communications standard type.

36. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, wherein

- the use of the second communications resources are controlled such that communications according to the second communications standard type are prioritized in relation to communications according to the first communications standard type.

37. (Previously Presented) A radio base station for a communications environment being adapted to be operated according to the steps of claim 1.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising program code portions for carrying out steps according to claim 1, the computer program product being stored on a computer readable storage medium or in a computer readable storage device.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to claim 38, being stored on a computer readable storage medium or in a computer readable storage device.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the second communications resources include a second frequency range.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising the step of controlling the use of the second communications resources for a geographical area for which both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type are provided.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, comprising the step of controlling the use of the first communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the first communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, comprising the step of controlling the use of the second communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the second communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, comprising the step of providing the first communications resources and second communications resources as resources comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type.

45. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, wherein the second communications resources include a second frequency range.

46. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, being adapted to control the use of the first communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the first communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the first communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the first communications standard type.

47. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 23, being adapted to control the use of the second communications resources in dependence of at least one of a current communications traffic according to the second communications standard type, expected communications traffic according to the second communications standard type and available communications resources for communications according to the second communications standard type.

48. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, wherein the first communications resources and second communications resources are comprised by the first communications environment, which provides for both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type.

49. (Previously Presented) The communications environment according to claim 21, being adapted to control the use of the second communications resources for a geographical area for which both communications according to the first communications standard type and communications according to the second communications standard type are provided.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the second communications resources include a second frequency range.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communications system comprising:
performing first communications according to a first communications standard, the first communications standard prescribing a first frame structure including at least one transmission gap;

performing second communications according to a second communications standard, the second communications standard prescribing a second frame structure; and
using the at least one transmission gap prescribed by the first communications standard for transmitting data of at least a portion of the second frame structure for the second communications;

wherein a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon the number and the duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the first frame structure is according to wideband code division multiple access (WCDMA) and the second frame structure is according to time division multiple access (TDMA).

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the first frame structure is according to a UTRAN environment and the second frame structure is according to a GSM/GPRS environment.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising providing an offset for aligning a first one of the frames of the second frame structure with the at least one of the transmission gaps of the first frame structure.

55. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a communications system comprising:

performing first communications according to a first communications standard, the first communications standard prescribing a first frame structure including at least one transmission gap;

performing second communications according to a second communications standard, the second communications standard prescribing a second frame structure; and

using the second communications standard to control what is transmitted in the at least one transmission gap prescribed by the first communications standard whereby data of the second communications is transmitted in the at least one transmission gap;

wherein a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the first frame structure is according to wideband code division multiple access (WCDMA) and the second frame structure is according to time division multiple access (TDMA).

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the first frame structure is according to a UTRAN environment and the second frame structure is according to a GSM/GPRS environment.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising providing an offset for aligning a first one of the frames of the second frame structure with the at least one of the transmission gaps of the first frame structure.

59. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communications system comprising:

performing first communications according to a first communications standard, the first communications standard prescribing a first frame structure for first communications resources, the first frame structure including at least one transmission gap;

performing second communications according to a second communications standard, the second communications standard prescribing a second frame structure for second communications resources;

adaptively controlling a sharing of the first communication resources prescribed by the first communication standard with the second communications whereby data of the second communications is transmitted in the at least one transmission gap;

wherein a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising adaptively controlling the sharing based on a number of allocated and/or requested communications resources for the first communications and the second communications.

62. (Currently Amended) A dual mode radio base station network node of a communications system, the dual mode radio base station comprising:

first communication resources base station equipment configured to utilize first communication resources prescribed by a first communication standard, the first communications standard prescribing a first frame structure for the first communications resources, the first frame structure including at least one transmission gap;

second communication resources base station equipment configured to utilize second communication resources prescribed by a second communication standard, the second communications standard prescribing a second frame structure for the second communications resources;

the dual mode radio base station being configured to adaptively control a sharing of the first communication resources with the second communications by controlling use

of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure ~~use of at least one transmission gap whereby first communications, for which the at least one transmission gap is prescribed as comprising first communication resources by a first communication standard, adaptively shares the at least one transmission gap with second communications prescribed by a second communications standard~~ whereby data of the second communications is transmitted in the at least one transmission gap, whereby a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.

63. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising synchronizing the second frame structure of the second communications type with the first frame structure.
64. (New) The communications environment of claim 19, wherein the second frame structure of the second communications type is synchronized with the first frame structure.
65. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising synchronizing the second frame structure of the second communications type with the first frame structure.
66. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising synchronizing the second frame structure of the second communications type with the first frame structure.
67. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising synchronizing the second frame structure of the second communications type with the first frame structure.
68. (New) The network node of claim 62, wherein the second frame structure of the second communications type is synchronized with the first frame structure.

69. (New) The node of claim 62, wherein the dual mode radio base station is configured to adaptively control the sharing of the first communication resources with the second communications based on a number of allocated and/or requested communications resources for the first communications and the second communications.

70. (New) A communications system comprising:

a first radio base station node configured to utilize first communication resources prescribed by a first communication standard, the first communications standard prescribing a first frame structure for the first communications resources, the first frame structure including at least one transmission gap;

a second radio base station node configured to utilize second communication resources prescribed by a second communication standard, the second communications standard prescribing a second frame structure for the second communications resources;

wherein the first radio base station node and the second radio base station node are synchronized to facilitate a sharing of the first communication resources with the second communications by controlling use of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure whereby data of the second communications is transmitted in the at least one transmission gap, whereby a number of usable slots or frames of the second frame structure is dependent upon a number and duration of the at least one transmission gap of the first frame structure.